

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to an electrically conductive element for an electrochemical cell comprising an electrically conductive corrosion-susceptible metal substrate having a surface susceptible to passivation by forming oxides in the presence of oxygen. The surface is treated to remove any oxides present, and then is overlaid with an electrically conductive corrosion-resistant coating comprising one or more elements from Groups 4, 5, 10, or 11 of the Periodic Table, and then a corrosion-resistant electrically conductive polymer-based coating. The underlying substrate thus has improved corrosion-resistance while maintaining electrical conductivity. Other preferred aspects of the present invention include methods of treating the electrically conductive contact element to resist corrosion while still maintaining electrical conductivity.